

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A resin-coated powder material prepared by coating a resin onto a needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 2 (Original): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin is at least one organic resin selected from a silicone resin and a fluorocarbon resin.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is a zinc oxide needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein a coating amount of the resin relative to the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is such that the resin is in the range of 0.001 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 6 (Original): A coating composition prepared by mixing a needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder with a silicone resin coating composition and/or fluorocarbon resin coating composition.

Claim 7 (original): A coating composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is a zinc oxide needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A coating composition as claimed in claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A water-repellent coating film-forming method, which comprises coating the coating composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6 as a topcoat coating composition onto a substrate to form a water-repellent coating film.

Claim 10 (Original): A water-repellent coating product having a topcoat water-repellent coating film formed by the water-repellent coating film-forming method as claimed in claim 9.

Claim 11 (Original): A substrate surface-modifying method, which comprises coating an inorganic powder dispersion containing, as essential components, a needle-like single crystal inorganic powder and a resin onto a substrate to impart water-repellency to the surface of the substrate.

Claim 12 (Original): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substrate is a plastics substrate and/or inorganic substrate.

Claim 13 (Original): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is a zinc oxide needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a silicone resin and/or fluorocarbon resin.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a curable resin.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11 to 16~~ claim 11, wherein the plastics substrate or the inorganic substrate is composed of a curable resin coating film.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in ~~any of claims 11 to 17~~ claim 11, wherein the curable resin coating film prior to coating the inorganic powder dispersion is an uncured coating film, and the uncured coating film is cured after coating the inorganic powder dispersion.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 18~~ claim 11, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a curable resin, the substrate is a curable resin

coating film, which is an uncured coating film prior to coating the inorganic powder dispersion, and coating of the inorganic powder dispersion is followed by simultaneously curing the uncured curable resin coating film and the curable resin.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A water-repellent coating product having a topcoat water-repellent coating film formed by the method as claimed in ~~any one~~ of claims 11 to 19 claim 11.

Claim 21 (New): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is a zinc oxide needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 22 (New): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 23 (New): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 3, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 24 (New): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 22, wherein a coating amount of the resin relative to the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is such that the resin is in the range of 0.001 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 25 (New): A resin-coated powder material as claimed in claim 23, wherein a coating amount of the resin relative to the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is such that the resin is in the range of 0.001 to 50 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder.

Claim 26 (New): A coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 27 (New): A water-repellent coating film-forming method, which comprises coating the coating composition as claimed in claim 26 as a topcoat coating composition onto a substrate to form a water-repellent coating film.

Claim 28 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 29 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the needle-like single-crystal inorganic powder is in a three-dimensional shape having three or more needle-like crystal portions stretched in different directions from a core portion.

Claim 30 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a silicone resin and/or fluorocarbon resin.

Claim 31 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a silicone resin and/or fluorocarbon resin.

Claim 32 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a curable resin.

Claim 33 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a curable resin.

Claim 34 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the plastics substrate or the inorganic substrate is composed of a curable resin coating film.

Claim 35 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the plastics substrate or the inorganic substrate is composed of a curable resin coating film.

Claim 36 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the curable resin coating film prior to coating the inorganic powder dispersion is an uncured coating film, and the uncured coating film is cured after coating the inorganic powder dispersion.

Claim 37 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the curable resin coating film prior to coating the inorganic powder dispersion is an uncured coating film, and the uncured coating film is cured after coating the inorganic powder dispersion.

Claim 38 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a curable resin, the substrate is a curable resin coating film, which is an uncured coating film prior to coating the inorganic powder dispersion, and coating of the inorganic powder dispersion is followed by simultaneously curing the uncured curable resin coating film and the curable resin.

Claim 39 (New): A substrate surface-modifying method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the resin used in the inorganic powder dispersion is a curable resin, the substrate is a curable resin coating film, which is an uncured coating film prior to coating the inorganic powder dispersion, and coating of the inorganic powder dispersion is followed by simultaneously curing the uncured curable resin coating film and the curable resin.

Claim 40 (New): A water-repellent coating product having a topcoat water-repellent coating film formed by the method as claimed in claim 38.

Claim 41 (New): A water-repellent coating product having a topcoat water-repellent coating film formed by the method as claimed in claim 39.